

Abstract 537

TITLE: Where and How to Provide Sexual Risk Reduction Intervention to HIV+ Injection Drug Users: A Discussion of Service Utilization and Sexual Risk

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BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: HIV seropositive (HIV+) individuals play a key role in preventing further transmission of HIV. This study examines sexual risk-taking behaviors and HIV service utilization in a sample of HIV+ injection drug users (IDUs).

METHODS: Cross-sectional study of 135 sexually active and currently injecting HIV+ IDUs (males = 76; females = 59) from the San Francisco Bay Area (n = 75) and New York City (n = 60) who participated in the Seropositive Urban Drug Injectors Study (SUDIS). IDUs were recruited from street locations and AIDS service organizations and given semi-structured qualitative and quantitative survey interviews in two separate study visits.

RESULTS: Ninety-six percent reported currently receiving regular HIV-specific medical care and 80% reported receiving other HIV-related services including food assistance (68%), case in drug treatment; 53% reported participation in a needle-exchange program within the previous 3 months; 65% reported attending an HIV support group and 30% a safer sex workshop within the previous year; 26% reported engaging in unprotected vaginal or anal intercourse with an HIV seronegative or unknown status partner within the previous year, and 62% of IDUs with HIV seronegative or unknown status main partners reported some sexual risk behavior within the previous 3 months. Qualitative analyses will be used to assess the context of sexual risk taking and intervention feasibility.

CONCLUSIONS: Most HIV+ IDUs in this sample are interacting with a wide variety of HIV/AIDS service organizations regularly. However, reported sexual risk-taking behaviors are unacceptably high, particularly with HIV seronegative and unknown status main sexual partners. The content, feasibility, and delivery of sexual risk reduction interventions for HIV+ IDUs will be discussed.

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